Greetings from the Director

Being a part of a social change movement involves planning for the future. The Vermont Network is continuously seeking ways to anticipate opportunities and challenges, positioning our resources to be able to further our mission. In this annual report we take a moment to glance back and document both the progress and the challenges of our work toward ending violence: a snapshot of 2009. This report is also a testament to the Network’s ongoing efforts to inform and support our Member Programs and victims and survivors, to create paradigm shifts that will prevent domestic and sexual violence, and to maximize our resources by strategically doing more with less.

Doing more with less might be the theme for 2009, especially for our partners working in state government. Many of the cost-cutting measures taken by state government in 2009 had a direct impact on services that are vital to victims and survivors. Member Programs were also faced with many challenges stemming from decreased funding from state sources, community donations and foundation grants. Fortunately, in 2009, services to victims seamlessly continued despite financial challenges.

Innovation might also be the theme this past year. At the Vermont Network we engaged in a transformative process that has resulted in a restructured organization better positioned to achieve our goals. The initiatives outlined in this report speak to the collaborative work of this organization, and to our accountability to our Member Programs and the people they serve.

--- Karen Tronsgard-Scott

2009 Network Office Staff
Karen Tronsgard-Scott
Director
Alex Bottinelli
Clearinghouse & Resources Specialist
Liese Brown
Legal Project Specialist
Sarah Kenney
Public Policy Coordinator
Jennifer Matthews
Financial Coordinator
Bethany Pombor
Prevention Specialist
Rebecca Shea
Creating Access Team Coordinator
Chani Waterhouse
Member Program Support Coordinator
Auburn Watersong
Economic Justice Specialist

2009 Annual Report
Vermont Network
Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
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Montpelier, VT 05601
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Statewide Hotlines
1-800-489-7273
(for Sexual Assault)
1-800-228-7395
(for Domestic Violence)

Adults and Children Served By Member Programs 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program with Shelter</th>
<th>Victims of Domestic Violence</th>
<th>Victims of Sexual Violence</th>
<th>Victims/ Survivors Served</th>
<th>Passports/ Rights in Shelters/ Safehomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AWARE</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battered Women’s Services &amp; Shelter*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1,021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Rape Crisis Center*</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2,255</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>7,155</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Crisis Center*</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,002</td>
<td>6,567</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>20,144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Programs with Shelter include:
- Network Programs received and responded to 10,676 hotline calls.
- 345 women, 182 children, and 16 men were housed in Network Shelters or Safehomes, and 142 persons were turned away due to lack of room.
- 134 Vermonters over the age of sixty received services from Network Programs, as well as 738 Vermonters with disabilities.
- There were 191 child victims of sexual violence served by Network Programs. Also, support services (other than shelter) were provided to 6,684 women, 310 men, and 1,061 children.
- Network Programs’ prevention/education work throughout the state reached 8,456 kindergarten through high school youth, and 4,651 college students. Additionally, 2,648 professional adults (teachers, health and law professionals, state agency staff, etc.) received training and education.
Mission
The Vermont Network is a feminist organization committed to eradicating domestic and sexual violence through advocacy, empowerment and social change.

Who We Are
The Vermont Network is a coalition of 15 Programs located throughout the state, and a statewide Network Office located in Montpelier.

Greetings from the Board
In 2009 the Board worked to clearly articulate its vision for a Vermont free from sexual and domestic violence. We reached out to stakeholders to learn what activities and goals we should prioritize. The coalition is inspired by the strength and resilience of the survivors we work with in pursuit of safety, justice and self-determination. Their inspiration has fueled critical policy improvements and recognition of the paramount importance of prevention work. The Board thanks you for supporting this vital work.

2009 Vermont Network Highlights

**Shelter**
Survivors often experience pleasant surprise when they first enter a shelter. Network Program shelters are home-like. Staff are able to provide shelter with clothes and personal items to replace things they had to leave behind. Kids enjoy playing in the playrooms and spending time with staff. Friendships often develop in shelter, which may provide emotional support during what can be among the most trying periods of a survivor’s life.

Network Program shelters have worked hard in recent years to enhance accessibility and responsiveness to survivors with diverse needs. Vermont is also fortunate to have one of the only shelters in the country which is geared toward female and male survivors of sexual violence and their families, and which also specializes in serving transgender people and other survivors of same-sex violence and harassment.

The newest shelter in the Network was opened by Umbrella in the summer of 2009, providing a long-needed resource for survivor domestic violence in the northeast kingdom. Though Vermont has more shelter beds than ever before, Network Program shelters still had to turn away more than 140 people in 2009. Over 30 years after the first domestic violence shelter opened in Vermont, the ten shelters operated by Network Programs remain a vital resource for survivors of both domestic and sexual violence.

**Legislative Change**
In response to the 2008 murder of 12-year-old Brooke Bennett, the legislature took decisive action to reform Vermont’s laws pertaining to sexual violence offenders. The Network was actively engaged in those conversations and strongly supported several measures including expansion of the state’s definition of “comprehensive health education.” The legislature amended to mandate schools to provide information to students regarding sexual violence and healthy relationships. Act 1 (S.13) also made significant changes to the criminal code with the addition of two new crimes: aggravated sexual assault of a child and sexual exploitation of a minor. Immediately following passage of Act 1, legislators began work on another comprehensive bill to update the state’s sex offender registry, Act 58. The bill also criminalizes sex trafficking and creates a new juvenile violation called “molestation electronically disseminating indecent material to another person”! More information about these bills and many other new laws is available on the public policy section of our website: www.vtnetwork.org.

**Technical Assistance Resource Guide (TARG)**
The 2009 legislative session saw the passage of S13/Act 1, which included a directive to incorporate sexual violence prevention education into the schools’ health education curriculum. To help support this mandate, the Legislature directed the Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force, of which the Network is an active member, to create the Sexual Violence Prevention Technical Assistance Resource Guide (TARG).

It provides resources and guidelines to schools as they incorporate sexual violence prevention education into their curricula. Following best practice prevention innovations, the guide provides recommendations for school personnel and the broader population (parents, coaches and other caregivers) about sexual violence prevention - so that youth get clear and consistent information throughout their community. The TARG will be released and sent to schools in July 2010.

**Exchanging Accessibility and Responsiveness Through Collaboration**
In 2009, after several years of collaboration-building, assessment, and planning, the Coasting Access Project implemented plans to improve systems’ responses to people with disabilities and Deaf people who experience violence and abuse. Partner organizations (the Network, the Vermont Center for Independent Living [VCIL] and Green Mountain Self Advocates [GMSA]) have worked closely together to weave accessibility and violence awareness through our own organizational policies and practices. The Network has built organizational capacity to create more accessible publications and events, and to provide technical assistance to member Programs on the public accessibility. GMSA and VCIL have enhanced how their programs respond to people experiencing violence and abuse. The group has also provided ongoing support and technical assistance to local pilot collaborations doing similar work in Barre and Burlington.

**Holding Batterers Accountable**
By improving efforts to engage and hold accountable men who batter, the Network hopes to improve the safety of survivors of domestic violence. During 2009, our batterer accountability efforts have included the review and certification of seven batterer intervention programs, a complete revision of state-wide Standards for batterer intervention programs, and training for probation officers, DCF caseworkers, prosecutors and others.

**Vermont Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs)**
Two years ago the Legislature passed H.161 which established Vermont’s SANE Program and gave the Vermont Network oversight of the program. In early 2009, the SANE Advisory Board was established to create a shared understanding of current SANE programs in Vermont and to set future goals. The Board is comprised of medical professionals, law enforcement officials, state agency representatives, victims’ advocates, and others, all of whom have a special interest in meeting the needs of sexual violence survivors.

Administrative rules that will govern the educational and training requirements for SANEs were drafted, and the SANE Advisory Board established a schedule for meeting to monitor the SANE Program, implementation of rules and compliance with SANE standards for education, and certification.

This past March, Central Vermont Community Hospital hosted a 40-hour/five day didactic SANE training based on the International Association of Forensic Nurses. It was sponsored by the Vermont Network and resulted in 19 new SANEs who are currently practicing across the state.

**Supporting Survivors Behind Bars**
Since 2003, the Discussing Intimate Partner Violence and Accessing Support (DIPVAS) program has allowed incarcerated survivors to connect directly with advocates from Network Programs primarily through educational support groups in the women’s incarcerative facilities. Currently Vermont women are incarcerated in St. Albans and Brattleboro, where Voices Against Violence and Women’s Crisis Center facilitate groups. In 2009, the Network worked with the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Verizon Foundation to restructure and expand advocacy within the DIPVAS program, based on recommendations from incarcerated women, advocates and DOC partners. A new Verizon Foundation grant allows an advocate from Voices Against Violence to work one-on-one with women at the Northwest State Correctional Facility, supporting them in developing individualized plans for safety and autonomy and assisting them in establishing supportive connections with local resources in the communities to which they will be released.

Economic Empowerment
The Vermont Network has continued to develop crucial partnerships to support victims/survivors in these difficult economic times. Through the support of the Department of Children and Families Office of Economic Opportunities, the Network issued over $10,000 in housing assistance grants to victims/survivors in 2009.

From funding with the Allstate Foundation and the National Network to End Domestic Violence, the Network has deepened its focus on economic advocacy efforts, with new resources to victims/survivors throughout Vermont, a statewide economic awareness campaign, training in financial planning, victim/survivor-focused financial literacy curriculum, and a matched savings pilot program. The Network plans to continue the development of resources and partnerships to support the economic empowerment of victims/survivors.

*This publication is available in large print upon request: library@vtnetwork.org

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**Vermont Network Financial Statement**

**INCOME:**
Federal grants $1,669,133
State allocations $372,923
Other $148,116
**TOTAL INCOME:** $2,140,972

**EXPENSES:**
Pass-through to NW Programs $1,214,733
Outreach/Training/Education $75,611
Consultants & Sub-Grants $329,775
Salaries & Benefits $1,214,733
Operations $145,569
**TOTAL EXPENSES:** $2,171,280

**Balance:** $18,792

*Note: This financial statement is not yet audited*